WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 12, NUMBER 9 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | JANUARY 2002

A
Celebration
In the spirit
of non-violence

New Year's Day
Tuesday
January 1, 2002

* 12 Noon - Gather
  Heritage Park Bath House
  (aka Capital Lake Park)

* 12:30pm - Peace Procession
  Lead by Samba Olywa Percussionists!

* 1:00pm - Rally at Sylvester Park
  Speeches, music & celebrating peace

For more information
Contact OMJP at 877-881-1560
olympiansforpeace@ureach.com
Anna at 360-943-7469

* Children of all ages welcome! Bring drums & noise makers for the Procession

Please join us for a family-friendly event to celebrate peace in the New Year. Sponsors include Fellowships of Reconciliation, Olympia Movement for Justice & Peace, Thurston County Chapter of N.O.W., Rainbow Coalition, Works in Progress, St. Michael's Social Justice Committee, Black Hills Alliance and many others!

Mumia's Death Sentence Thrown Out (For Now)

Wip News Service

Mumia Abu-Jamal's habeas corpus petition was submitted to a federal court two years ago. This was Mumia's final guaranteed appeal of his unjust conviction; subsequent appeals are not likely to be heard by any court. On Tuesday December 18th, Federal Judge Yohn handed down a ruling AGAINST Mumia without even holding a court session or allowing Mumia to be present (as he had previously agreed to!).

In order to lessen the impact of an execution that would be widely protested around the world and likely lead to civil unrest generally, Yohn made a small concession. He ruled against Mumia's execution, but did not overturn Mumia's false conviction. He specifically changed the execution to life imprisonment and nothing less, and will even allow another sentencing hearing to take place in the next 180 days which could reinstate the death sentence. (The prosecution will also appeal Yohn's tiny concession, directly). At best, Mumia is facing a sentence of "slow death," as he has described it himself.

As usual, the mainstream media has distorted the significance of the ruling by concentrating on Mumia's "victory" regarding the sentencing, while ignoring the giant blow that was delivered against Mumia in Yohn's upholding of Mumia's original conviction.

That conviction based on a 1982 Philadelphia trial in the court of "hanging judge" Albert Sabo, has been denounced even by very mainstream observers such as Amnesty International and the European Parliament. Among the more blatant injustices were the use of two witnesses who have since admitted that their testimony was false having been coerced by the police (plus the manufactured testimony of one other "eyewitness," who was not even at the scene of the shooting according to the other witnesses). Mumia's reported "confession" which was not reported for two months after several police reportedly heard it, is widely viewed as a pure fabrication.

Mumia was expelled from the courtroom during about half of his trial, and was not allowed to represent himself or choose his own lawyer. Sabo forced on Mumia a totally incompetent lawyer (Anthony Jackson) whose notorious performance is legendary, not having obtained an investigator or expert witnesses in Mumia's defense, nor introducing crucial arguments and evidence. Yet Yohn, in his ruling, has the nerve to assert that "For the ensuing five months, Jackson prepared for trial thoroughly and intensively."

The continuation of the whitewash by this federal Judge is not surprising, but nevertheless quite outrageous.

We need to conduct a sharp and immediate protest against this devastating blow to Mumia. Our collective voices have brought worldwide attention to this case and we must not stop now. Now is the time at which our voices, officially ignored, will have the most impact. Please help to organize a militant response in your area!

March For Our Lives

Friday February 8, 2002

People are poor in America! We are consciously being made to disappear. This year marks the final stage of the destruction of the welfare system, as our safety net disappears. Thousands of poor men, women and children will find themselves with no way to feed, clothe and house themselves. As the Winter Olympics descend upon our nation we will be marching for our lives and demanding our economic human rights. As the United States welcomes the Olympics, it has abandoned the poor people of this nation. So we must take our nation in a new direction, one that is based in the human rights to food, clothing, housing, a living wage, healthcare and education. United as the Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign, we will bring together thousands of poor people, along with students, social workers, unions, lawyers and religious leaders to make our voices heard as we March for Our Lives.

Housing: In order to accommodate all marchers and to be a visible presence during the Winter Olympics we will be erecting a Tent City. From February 4th - 8th, Tent City will be our base for the March For Our Lives and will be where daily teach-ins, panels, workshops, film screenings and musical performances are held throughout the week leading up to the March.

Travel: Salt Lake City is easily accessible by car, train or bus. Travel plans need to be made now! Once in town, all activities will be easily accessible by public transportation.

Endorse: Organizations are invited to become official sponsors of the March For Our Lives. In order to become an official sponsor, your group needs to commit to bring at least 100 marchers to participate. Sponsors will have their organizations listed on our official endorsement list, which will be part of our outreach and press packets.

Donate: As an organization of poor people we have very few resources to make this march happen. Please contact us if you are able to make a contribution. We are especially in need of warm clothes, green scarves, food, blankets, space heaters, frequent flyer miles and monetary donations.

PPEHRC: The Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign (PPEHRC) is a national effort led by poor and homeless men, women and children of all races to raise the issue of poverty as an economic human rights violation. The PPEHRC is fighting for our basic rights as provided for in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: the right to a decent job at a living wage, the right to suitable housing, the guarantee of quality education and quality healthcare, the right to communication and a future for us and our families. From migrant workers in Florida and welfare moms in Idaho to public housing tenants in Chicago to downsized workers in Ohio, poor people have joined together to fight an escalating war against poverty in our wealthy nation.

CONTACT: Poor People's Economic Human Rights Campaign c/o Kensington Welfare Rights Union PO Box 50678 * Philadelphia, PA 19132 * (215)203-1945 * fax (215)203-1950 kwru@kwru.org * http://www.kwru.org

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! /Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!/

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, <wip@olywa.net>

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

WORKERS IN PROGRESS

Tristan Baurick	Jerome Johnson
Dave Campbell	Margaret Love
Chelsea Chase	Sandy Mayes
Sebastian Chase	Hali Panneton
Tom Chenhall	Jeff Sowers
Renee Cruickshank	Sylvia Smith
Megan Davis	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Alice Zillah

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Annoucements, etc.

Winter Feast

The second annual YMCA Earth Service Corps' Winter Feast is occurring on Sunday January 13th from 6-9pm at the downtown YMCA. This celebration will include a community vegetarian dinner, live music, and presentations on the effects of our food choices on our environment and community.

YESC encourages anyone who's interested to bring their own favorite vegetarian dish to share. The requested donation will be $4 for students, seniors and low-income folks and $5 for adults. All proceeds will go to support the youth and teens of the YESC, whose mission is to empower young people to be effective, responsible global citizens by providing opportunities for environmental education and action, cross cultural awareness and leadership development.

Sex Workers' Art Show

Saturday, January 19th at 7pm
Capitol Theatre (203 5th Ave)
Tickets at the door.

Olympia's 5th Annual Sex Workers' Art Show will include performances, artwork, and video by talented sex workers from the Pacific Northwest and all over the country! Artists and performers include Candye Kane, Isis Rodriguez, David Henry Sterry, Spider, Konako, Annie Oakley, Shane Luitjens, Matilda and many more.

And don't forget to bring your wallet for our fabulous date auction. Also: Sex Workers Conference on January 20th. Call for details. Proceeds of the nights extravaganza to benefit Books to Prisoners, Danzine, and the Transgender Medical Fund. Call 280-2170 for info.

A Message From The KAOS Listeners For DEMOCRACY NOW!

Hello Again,

You may remember us as the people who made a lot of noise when Democracy Now! went off the air. Although we continue to address that topic, for the moment we are focused on another issue critical to the KAOS listening community.

As of Nov. 2, KAOS has been without a general manager following the resignation of Jack Kemp. The KAOS Listeners for Democracy Now! (KLDN) believe it is essential for the listening community to have a meaningful mechanism through which to influence the search process for a new manager. To that end, we have written a proposal to Tom Mercado, Student Activities Director, available through the "Take Action" feature on our website (www.morelater.com/kaos).

The proposal outlines some changes we'd like to make to the search process which was used to hire Mr. Kemp. One change we feel is vital is the inclusion of a community member not affiliated with KAOS or the Evergreen State College on the search/hiring committee.

On Jan. 23, 2002, KAOS Is Hosting A Public Forum From 4 To 6 Pm In CAB 320 at TESC.

The KLDN would like to strongly encourage those interested in free speech and grassroots community radio in Olympia to participate in this forum. We hope to see you there!

P.S. You can also use the "Take Action" feature on our website to post your very own letter to Tom Mercado.

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Jan. 18th

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, Jan. 21st
6:30pm at Olympia Downtown Library

Everyone Welcome!

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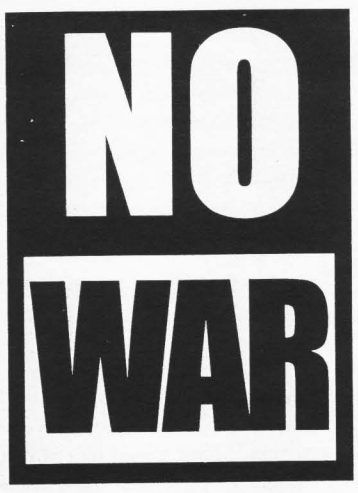

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Subscriptions: ☐ Individual ... $35 ☐ Low-Income ...$15

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JANUARY 2002

Major reasons for disliking US

(Survey of 275 opinion leaders around the globe)

	Resentment of US Power	Causes Rich/ Poor Gap	US support of Israel	Power of multi-nat'l corps
United States	88 %	43 %	70 %	40 %
Total non-US	52	52	29	36
W. Europe	66	61	22	59
E. Europe/Russia	64	53	17	47
Latin America	58	51	7	44
Asia	38	42	36	21
All Islamic States	41	45	57	17
Mid-East/Conflict Area	54	59	57	17

The Pew Global Attitudes Project (http://www.people-press.org/121901rpt.htm)

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sixty-two percent of the Non-US opinion leaders think the US is acting mainly on its own interests in the fight against terrorism.		**1** **2001**: Clinton invites Arafat to Washington, DC for meeting **2001**: Civil rights groups vow to fight Ashcroft nomination	**2** **2001**: Clinton meets with Arafat who pledges to reduce acts of violence **2001**: *Seattle P-I* employees return to work	**3** **2001**: 7 black employees file race discrimination against Microsoft **2001**: CA Public Utilities Commission recommends 9% rate hike	**4** **2001**: CA PUC oks temporary rate increase, says feds have done little solve crisis **2001**: *Seattle Times*/ Union reach agreement	**5** **2001**: Sears closes 89 stores after Dec. sales drop **2001**: OR/WA governors ask residents to cut back on energy use
6 **1773**: Massachusetts slaves petitioned the legislature for freedom **2001**: Congress declares George Bush II as victor	**7** **2001**: Federal Judge says, Bill Gates has "a Napoleonic concept ... an arrogance that derives from power and unalloyed success... "	**8** **2001**: Olympia city financed study reports 6% drop in public confidence in police accountability since 1997	**9** **2001**: Linda Chavez withdraws nomination for Labor secretary **2001**: Utilities and Transportation staff endorse gas rate raises	**10** **2001**: American Airlines buys TWA **2001**: P.E.E.R. charges Dept of Fish and wildlife in misuse of Hydraulic code program	**11** **2001**: US President Clinton expresses regret of the No Gun Ri massacre by United States troops during the Korean War	**12** **2001**: The FDA warns pregnant women not to eat shark, swordfish, king mackerel and tile due to mercury contamination
13 **1999**: US Dist. Judge describes Microsoft's exclusion of workers from future court awards "outrageously arrogant"	**14** ***MLK Day*** **2001**: Carnegie Group / South Sound Greens call for more public comment on LOTT/ Miller agreement	**15** **2001**: Puget Sound tribes file lawsuit for St to fix salmon habitat **2001**: St Pete's nurses turn down proposed labor contract	**16** **2001**: WA St Patrol study shows non-whites searched more often though white are most often caught w/ contraband	**17** **2001**: California begins rolling blackouts **2001**: Thurston Commissioner lets Sheriff's Office send up to 15 prisons to Yakima jail	**18** **1998**: US Justice Dept: one in 155 incarcerated **2001**: California has a 2nd day of blackouts; Bush won't intervene on electricity prices	**19** **2001**: Bush sworn in as president **2001**: Clinton makes deal to avoid indictment; admits lying under oath
20 **1908**: NY Sullivan ordinance bars women from smoking in public facilities **1904**: Marines sent to Dominican Republic	**21** **1977**: Pres. Carter grants unconditional pardon to almost all Vietnam draft evaders **2001**: California sees blackouts again	**22** **2001**: Memorial Clinic announces it may need to restructure **2001**: Bush reinstates full abortion restrictions on US aid	**23** **1968**: Navy intelligence ship the USS Pueblo is seized off the North Korean coast **1999**: US bombs 2 missile sites in Iraq	**24** **2001**: Buford Furrow receives life in prison; prosecutors took into consideration Furrow long history of mental illness	**25** **1998**: Fed officials insist sex scandal won't hamper U.S. decisions on weapons standoff with Iraq--including possible military attack	**26** **2000**: Meta Heller makes bid for governor **2001**: Gov Locke orders local governments to cut power usage by 10 percent
27 **2000**: Oregon researchers names nitrogen-based compound in fertilizers probable cause of decline of frog species in NW	**28** **2001**: Cheney says power problem in California "was caused by California" **2001**: Remains of Madalyn O'Hair found	**29** **2000**: Federal officials admits workers who built nuclear weapons became ill due to radiation or toxic chemical contamination	**30** **1956**: MLK, Jr.'s home bombed **1912**: British Lords oppose House of Commons, rejecting home rule for Ireland	**31** **1948**: Riots in Indian cities follow Gandhi's assassination **2000**: Seattle bound Alaska Airlines Flight 261 crashes in Pacific	Seventy-three percent of the non-US opinion leaders think the United States has been too supportive of Israel compared to 35% of in the US.	

The Evergreen State College Educators Response To The Current Crisis

Wip News Service

Attached below is a statement drafted and signed by 64 members of the faculty and staff of The Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington, regarding the current crisis and war. The resolution speaks for itself, but it emphasizes that the signatories believe that they have a need to speak out on this important issue specifically as educators. The resolution condemns the attacks of September 11th, supports the use of international tribunals to bring to justice those who committed the acts, and also encourages the U.S. to break the cycle of violence by ending the war and not extending it further.

It also urges to the U.S. to collaborate with other governments around the world to help end conditions that may generate terrorist acts and to prevent immediate starvation in Afghanistan. It further supports less dependence on oil as an energy resource and requests federal spending that benefits the majority of the people, and not primarily the extremely wealthy and corporations. It also urges the repeal of the Patriot Act and military tribunals for noncitizens. These are an attack on civil liberties and rights and may undermine the free exchange of ideas and education.

It commends the administration of the college for its support of academic freedom. Recognizing that there are a diversity of views and the intellectual strength in colleges and universities on the current crisis, the signatories state in point #6, "We urge all educational institutions to strongly support the academic freedom of their faculty, staff and students and to publicly discuss the issues surrounding the current crisis."

For further information contact either Dr. Larry Mosqueda at 360-867-6513, mosqueda@evergreen.edu or Dr. Peter Bohmer at 360-867-6431, bohmerp@evergreen.edu.

Educators Response To The Current Crisis

WHEREAS as citizens, residents of the United States, individual faculty and Staff of The Evergreen State College, we are compelled by our specific responsibilities as educators, to help our students have personal engagement with the "real world" and link theory with practice;

WHEREAS we feel a duty to express our alarm at a number of troubling directions that are developing in the aftermath of the tragic attack on the World Trade Centers in New York City on September 11, 2001;

WHEREAS as educators responsible to our profession, our colleagues, our students, our country, and people of the planet now and in the future, we, the undersigned, offer the following resolution:

1. We condemn the mass murder of thousands of people on September 11, 2001 in New York, near Washington D.C. and Pennsylvania and express our profound grief and condolences to families and friends of the victims of the attack.
2. We support the use of the World Court or other international tribunals such as the International Criminal Court to bring to justice all of those who were complicit in the September 11th, violent attack. Any use of force should be a multilateral approach that follows international law and is only used to bring to trial those charged with these crimes.
3. We urge that the U.S. break the cycle of violence, bringing the bombing to a conclusion immediately, ending actions that cause the death of innocent people in Afghanistan, and bringing the war to a halt. Further we oppose any extension of this war by the U.S. into other countries.
4. We urge that the U.S. collaborate with governments throughout the world to address and overcome conditions such as poverty, malnutrition, disease, oppression, and subjugation that make acts of terrorism more likely. We also request that the U.S. donate, immediately, significant resources to international relief agencies, in order to prevent massive starvation in Afghanistan.

We commend the Evergreen State College administration for respecting and supporting the academic freedom and civil liberties of the entire Evergreen community and request that it continue to do so.

We urge all educational institutions to strongly support the academic freedom of their faculty, staff and students and to publicly discuss the issues surrounding the current crisis.

We support a national campaign to lessen our dependence on oil and to commit to a nationwide conversion to renewable energy sources within ten years.

8. We support federal spending that will directly benefit those who have lost jobs since September 11th, such as continued health insurance and unemployment insurance, and request that the federal government provide revenues to the States so that they do not cut social programs and public education. We support spending for health care, energy conversion, education, and mass transit, and we support tax cuts for low- income people. We oppose the current federal tax cuts that provide little stimulus to the economy and huge tax breaks for corporations and the wealthy.
9. We urge the repeal of the USA PATRIOT ACT, the so-called anti-terrorism act which is an attack on all of our civil liberties and rights, particularly those of non-citizens, immigrants, and Muslims. The vague definition of terrorism and its major expansion of police power constitute a threat to democracy. It has the potential to undermine the free exchange of ideas, which lies at the heart of our mission as an educational institution. We also strongly oppose the establishment of military tribunals to try noncitizens the government accuses of terrorism.

SIGNED: Individual Members of the Staff and Faculty of TESC:

William Arney Joan Bantz Amy Blasen
Lori Blewett Peter Bohmer Pris Bowerman
Susan Bustetter Craig Carlson Mario A. Caro
Arun Chandra Grace Chang Doranne Crable
David Cramton Lin Crowley Steve Davis
Peter Dorman Jean Eberhardt Marja Eloheimo
Anne Fischel Angela Gilliam Jose Gomez
Jeanne Hahn Ruth Hayes Peta Henderson
Steve Herman Allegra Hinkle Penny Hinojosa
Beth Horne Sharilyn Howell Peter Kardas
Ernestine Kimbro Sylys Knackstedt
Pat Kolstad Dan Leahy Lance Laird
JuPong Lin Chandra Lindeman Laurie Meeker
Larry Mosqueda Alan Nasser Alice Nelson
Lin Nelson Steve Niva Alan Parker
Sara Petty-Powell Peter Randlette Eve Rickert
Shawn Ritterbush Liza Rognas Evelia Romano
Ratna Roy Sarah Ryan Therese Saliba
Douglas Schuler Zahid Shariff Simona Sharoni
Patricia Silverberg Erik Thuesen
Gail Tremblay Margaret Tysver
Michael Vavrus Daniel Weisser
Lucilene Whitesell Sarah Williams

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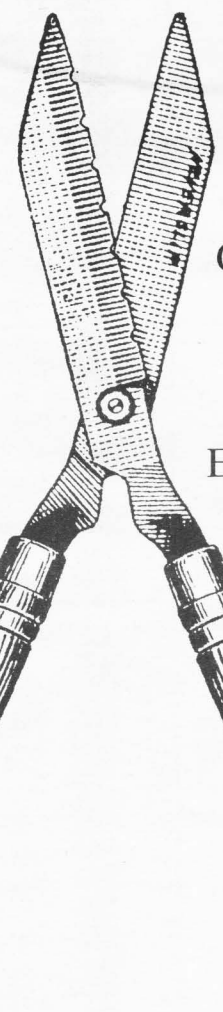

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Up Front

A Tale of Two Airports: October 2001

Jerome Johnson

Last October, I flew to Hawaii for my vacation. I've wanted to go to Hawaii all my life, and I figured that it would be a VERY cool way to celebrate my 40th birthday. So in February of 2001, I visited my travel agent and made arrangements. It took me a leisurely 5 months to pay for my trip, and I didn't mind that at all. I like the "installment plan". It certainly worked for me. My trip—with the trimmings—was paid for weeks before I even left, allowing me plenty of money to spend spoiling myself during a fabulous week of sun, sand and surf.

After Sept. 11, people kept asking me if I was still going.

"Are you kidding?" I said. "Hell, yes. I've waited all my life for this, spent the better part of a year planning it, and I refuse to allow some damned terrorists to screw it up. This is about ME."

So it was that the morning of October 2 found me at my friends' house in Seattle, shivering with anticipation. My flight was at 7:05, and I knew my friends would get me to Sea-Tac on time, but by 3:45 am I just couldn't wait any longer. I wrote a thank-you note to my friends, called a cab and arrived at Sea-Tac just about 2 1/2 hours early for my flight. Just like Hawaiian Air said I should.

Well, Sea-Tac wasn't too crowded. If I hadn't known better, I would've sworn it was a routine day. There weren't an unusual number of police around—in fact, I was surprised by how few police I saw. Although there were more private security guards, most of them were at curbside.

But there were changes. Before Sept. 11, if you didn't have to check a bag you could walk right through the concourse, board the subway and go right to the gate. I never check my bags—I don't trust the airlines not to lose them, so I'm the Carry-on King. Even so, I had to wait in line for the counter. Due to new procedures, you have to get your boarding pass at the ticket/baggage check counter, carry on or not. Security guards denied access from the concourse if you didn't have your boarding pass (which used to be issued right at the gate). Luckily for me, I arrived in plenty of time and the medium-length line moved fast. After I got my pass, I walked through a metal detector and my bag was X-rayed—but not searched by hand, which surprised me a lot. Then I got on the subway and went directly to the terminal, with no further security checks. By 6:15 I was comfortably ensconced in a lounge right next to my gate, having a drink and reading the paper. Half an hour later I boarded my flight—which was full, interestingly enough—and flew away to the balmy Islands of Aloha.

I landed in Honolulu about 5 hours later, went through a metal detector. Again, my bag was X-rayed but not hand-searched, and I got the plane for the short hop over to Kauai.

I had a TERRIFIC vacation—absolutely worth the wait and money—but that's another story.

On 9 October, I packed my souvenirs and stuff I didn't need anymore into boxes and mailed them to myself here. That way I wouldn't have to check any bags, and I sure as hell didn't want to lose my souvenirs. Moving through the small airport on Kauai was easy—just the one metal detector—but when I changed planes in Honolulu, I received the full post-Sept. 11 air traveler's experience.

I got to the airport 2 hours and 45 minutes early. At first I felt a little ridiculous, even after Sept. 11, but it's a long swim from Honolulu to Seattle and nowhere to rest in between.

I got to the airport 2 hours and 45 minutes early. At first I felt a little ridiculous, even after Sept. 11, but it's a long swim from Honolulu to Seattle and nowhere to rest in between. When I got there, though, I was praising myself to high heaven because as at Sea-Tac, you had to get your boarding pass at the ticket counter to get to the gate. The line was a lot longer than at Sea-Tac, and the wait was longer—I spent an hour and a half standing in line.

After I finally got my pass, I joined another line for the first metal detector. This line was quicker—I was there in about 10 minutes. At the metal detector I saw two young Hawaii National Guardsmen, armed with loaded AR-15 assault rifles slung muzzle-down across their backs.

Hmmm, interesting, I thought. I wondered what the reason for the Guards' presence was. Like other governors, I knew from the news that Hawaii Gov. Cayetano (D) had deployed the Guard to airports. However, I was surprised to find two of them in the same place, just standing there. It seemed to me that the Guardsmen would've been more effective if they roamed around in pairs, with muzzles at low ready or armed with pistols. That would have made a more menacing picture, but if the reason for having the Guard was indeed security, it would've made sense. But if the reason for the Guards' presence was to "reassure the flying public"—however hollowly—then of course you'd want them where the flying public could always see and be reassured by them. I wanted to ask, but common sense prevailed.

At this point I should mention that I looked like a recruiting poster for the Tourist Bureau. I was wearing a bright, rather loud Hawaiian print shirt, beige shorts and white sneakers, no socks. I wore a blue Hawaii baseball cap and my camera hung around my neck.

I emptied out my pockets and went through the metal detector without incident. Even so, the private security guard passed a hand-held metal detector over me, again without incident. He wore rubber gloves, and under the watchful eyes of the Guardsmen he politely patted me down—even though the shirt I wore had only one empty breast pocket and I was wearing shorts. I was more amused than anything, but I knew to keep my mouth shut and move on. All the male passengers were patted down. Again, both my cased pool cue and small daypack were X-rayed—but not hand searched.

After that I was free to go to the shuttle bus which would take me to the gate. When I got to the bus station, my bag was X-rayed again—but not hand searched. The Guard was nowhere in sight.

I got on the bus, and arrived at the gate just as my flight was boarding. It was full, and very pleasant.

When I landed in Seattle, the night was cold but clear. I drove home and arrived in time to catch "Voyager" on channel 13.

*****

In Korea, reunification negotiations make progress.

In Sudan, food relief has resumed to hungry people.

In Hawaii, the tourist industry begins to recover.

And in Olympia, heavy—but needed—rain replenishes a thirsty land.

Keeping America Safe and Free:
Protecting security without assaulting civil liberties

Friday, February 1st at 7pm
The Student Union Building
South Puget Sound Community College, Olympia, WA

Come join concerned citizens of the south sound region as Doug Honig, Public Education Director of the American Civil Liberties Union, looks at civil liberties since 9/11. Honig will talk about the USA Patriot Act, the detention of hundeds of people with little information being released as to who and why, ethnic profiling of people from the Arab community, John Ashcroft's insinuation that people who question his policies are unpatriotic, and more.

Suggested donation: $5-10 sliding scale. Sponsored by Media Island International and the Political Action Club/SPSCC. Donations to benefit Media Island International. For more info, call Howard at 786-8059 or Amanda at 412-0497.

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THE TERRORISM OF WAR

Ron Jacobs

In the past weeks we have heard and read plenty about the US "war on terrorism," especially in Afghanistan. What the mainstream media doesn't tell us, however, are the stories of the thousands of civilians rendered homeless at the onset of the Afghani winter, the women whose burqas may be lifted but who live in fear of rape and starvation under the reign of America's allies, and the near-certain starvation that thousands of Afghanis now face (even if food aid is able to reach the areas these people are now struggling to survive). While US marines dig in outside of Kandahar to either fight the remaining Taliban forces, "clean up" after those forces surrender, or settle in for a long time to impose the US vision for the country, Northern Alliance forces are already fighting amongst themselves for positions of power. This fighting can quickly turn from the current verbal sparring to another round of civil war -- a civil war that the US will most certainly have a more difficult time ignoring than the one preceding the current US campaign. In addition, as part of his "war on terrorism," Bush and his cohorts are ratcheting up their threats against other populations unless they do the Pentagon's bidding sooner rather than later.

This war has very little to do with defeating terrorism and much to do with attempting to establish permanent US domination of the world and its resources. Like the Athenian, Roman, and British empires before it, the US government and the interests it serves need easy and unchallenged access to resources, labor and markets to maintain not only a certain margin of growth (which means profit), but to continue to exist. Not since the existence of the Soviet Union and its allies has the capitalist world perceived such a threat to its rule. During that time, however, it was the ideology of Marxism-Leninism and national liberation that the US opposed because its adherents wanted the US corporations and its military out of their part of the world. Nowadays, politically-charged Islamic fundamentalism is the ideology which appeals to many of the forces opposing the US and calling for its defeat. Although what the west terms Islamic fundamentalism is socially much more regressive than Marxism-Leninism, its appeal to the oppressed in the Muslim world comes from the same dynamic and population groups. Despite the differences in their origins, both ideologies demand, on a very basic level, economic justice and an end to imperialist domination and both also consider armed struggle as a way to achieve these goals.

It is these demands that have led the US war machine to decide to fight this radical Islamic ideology using strategies very similar to those it used to fight the spread of Marxist-Leninism. Some of those tactics were/are: continual propaganda denoting the adherents to the "enemy" philosophy as either less than human (living in caves and tunnels) or superhuman (evil itself/evil empire); the creation and support of unpopular regimes and counter-movements whose sole purpose is to repress and fight grassroots movements opposed to US imperialism (Diem/Thieu in Vietnam, contras in Nicaragua and Angola/Fahd family in Middle East, KLA/Bosnian forces in former Yugoslavia); and the attempt to politically isolate those in the US who oppose this policy by placing them with the enemy (McCarthy/HUAC hearings and COINTELPRO/the USA-PATRIOT Act and new crime of domestic terrorism.)

To put it succinctly, the US export of its capitalist culture is nothing but spreading propaganda for a way of life that requires greed, egocentrism, murder and war to thrive.

Ironically, it was the US war against the Soviet Union and the various national liberation forces around the world that the US supported that established today's scenario. Most of the forces currently battling in Afghanistan were armed and trained by the CIA and other US intelligence forces to fight the Soviet army in Afghanistan. The US supported Saddam Hussein for many years before the Gulf War as a way to counteract the aid he was receiving from the USSR. The Mubarak government in Egypt and the monarchy in Jordan would not exist without the massive US military and economic aid those regimes receive for their repression of any and all anti-US movements. The Saudi and Kuwaiti ruling families would not be as strong as they are without US support -- a support most graphically illustrated during the slaughter of Iraqis in 1991 known as the Gulf War. What is the common denominator here? I hesitate to say it, because it is so obvious -- oil and the profits it creates. Clearly, this is the primary reason any government in the world would be interested in this region. Since the end of World War I, when the victors created new nations out of the desert to serve their individual desires, the Middle East and its oil has been one of the primary causes of imperial interest and the consequence of that interest-war. After World War II and the creation of Israel as a US-sponsored garrison outpost in the region -- a creation which displaced millions of Palestinians already living there -- the importance of the region only increased, as did the non-Israeli population's resentment of western meddling. By now, this western meddling was mostly US meddling, because of its clear domination of the capitalist world after the second world war. Up to this point I have been writing only about the Middle East, as if movements and regimes in this region were the sole targets of the US "war on terrorism." Unfortunately, this is not the case. Other nations with large Muslim populations and insurgencies (Somalia, Indonesia, Sudan, to name a few) are also being mentioned by the White House and the Pentagon, as are the seemingly permanent enemies of the US establishment -- northern Korea and Cuba.

Another target in this war against GW's bogeyman are the revolutionary forces in Colombia (FARC/ELN). Indeed, recent statements by the US Ambassador to Colombia and State Department spokespeople compared these forces to Bin Laden and the Al-Quedda network and called for "appropriate" armed intervention. The FARC-ELN have been fighting the oligarchy in Colombia for over thirty years. Along with a few other now-defunct revolutionary groups, they tried armed insurgency for several years and then, in an attempt to bring peace along with justice, lay down their arms and formed political parties. After winning many local elections and several seats in the Colombian legislature, they found themselves being killed off one by one in the early 1990s by paramilitary and military forces aligned with the government and the oil/coffee/drug cartels it represents. So, the remaining forces returned to armed struggle. Since that return, the war has intensified, as has US involvement. In 1999 Plan Colombia began—a multi-billion dollar US strategy that includes aerial spraying of coca and poppy crops (along with whatever and whoever happens to be in the surrounding areas), more military aid, increased involvement of the CIA and its fronts, and the presence of US advisors and commandos. Since September 11th, the aid provided by Plan Colombia is being supplemented by additional counterterrorism funds.

This increased US involvement has brought more environmental destruction of the countryside, greater repression of labor and social justice activists including murder by paramilitaries, the displacement of tens of thousands of Colombian citizens because of aerial spraying and fighting between revolutionary forces (FARC/ELN) and the military and paramilitaries aligned with rightwing elements in the government, and the deaths of thousands of mostly poor Colombians. Why? Once again, to establish, expand and maintain US markets and domination in the region, and to exploit Colombia's resources and plentiful cheap labor. Indeed, in the opening paragraphs of Plan Colombia, it states that very clearly: "The plan also involves the implementation of measures that would serve to encourage foreign investment and further promote trade expansion. These include the completion of the necessary steps to comply with existing Uruguay Round agreements, especially those dealing with customs valuation, intellectual property protection, and investment measures, as well as implementing business facilitation measures proposed in the FTAA negotiations." Also, once again, that resource that defines most of the US's wars, comes into the picture: oil. In fact, according to Americas.org, "Colombia's petroleum production today rivals Kuwait's on the eve of the Gulf War. The United States imports more oil from Colombia and its neighbors Venezuela and Ecuador than from all Persian Gulf countries combined."

Which leads me neatly into the current strategy in South America known as the "Andeazation" of the war against anti-US elements in the region. Much like the regionalization of the war against the people of Southeast Asia in the 1960s and 1970s, the United States is now expanding its military and counterintelligence operations in Latin America. It is the Pentagon's hope that it can defeat the FARC and ELN, while simultaneously keep their supporters, both governmental (Cuba, the Chavez government in Venezuela) and nongovernmental, at bay. Already, sources in the contested and revolutionary-held regions of Colombia report a drastic increase in paramilitary and military activities since September 11th (including massacres of peasants and labor leaders.)

There is another equally important element to the US empire's need to dominate the world. That element is the creation of and access to consumer markets for goods made for US corporate profit. From movies and music to tennis shoes and cigarettes, the culture profiteers need to expand their reach. Interestingly enough, in another parallel to the Marx-

(Continued next page)

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(Terrorism, continued)

ist-Leninist national liberation movements and governments of the cold war era, Islamic radicals also oppose this aspect of US capitalism. Just as the communists saw the culture of capitalism to be a culture that emphasizes the dollar over content, the individual over the common good, and uses the objectification of women and the glorification of hedonism as the way to market a culture that would otherwise have little appeal since it has so little content, the Islamic fundamentalists frame their opposition in somewhat similar terms. To put it succinctly, the US export of its capitalist culture is nothing but spreading propaganda for a way of life that requires greed, egocentrism, murder and war to thrive. In addition, the technical sophistication, pervasive marketing, and appeal to humanity's most elemental instincts used by the propagandists makes more conventional appeals to reason and history virtually irrelevant to much of the world's population who have neither the time nor the inclination to examine the alternative.

The War at Home

The other front in this war against enemies of the US plan for global domination is right here in the USA. It wasn't more than two or three days after the tragedy of September 11, 2001 that Attorney General Ashcroft and his fellow lawmen started calling for a curtailment of the remaining civil liberties in this country. While they rounded up hundreds of men of Middle Eastern origin, they were formulating a new office with the rather Orwellian name Office of Homeland Security. Subsequently, a new law curtailing our rights to private conversation and protest was enacted by Congress known as the USA-PATRIOT act, and the establishment of military tribunals for suspected "terrorists" is underway. Although most members of Congress succumbed to the hysteria fanned by Ashcroft and his cohorts when it came time to vote for the USA-PATRIOT bill, even some of them are questioning the use of military tribunals. Of course, the only way they might be convinced to forbid their use is if masses of people pressure them to do so. Even then, the fact that these tribunals are being set up via an executive order makes it extremely unlikely even this type of pressure will make much difference. Given this, it is extremely likely that other dictatorial measures curtailing our freedom of movement and expression will also be carried out by executive fiat.

These moves are less about war and more about control. Before the occurrences of September 11, 2001 and the subsequent combat overseas, the US corporate plan for economic hegemony was under attack. The protests and riots in the streets at every meeting of the world's capitalist leaders were but the most obvious aspect of this opposition. Just like the number of protestors in the streets at these meetings, the opposition was growing. It was growing so quickly, in fact, that the governments and corporations who had much to lose from the growing popularity of the protestors' demands had to do something. The use of live ammunition by police in Gothenburg and the killing of a protestor in Genoa were indications of what lay ahead for protestors planning on attending the demonstrations against the IMF and World Bank in Washington, DC on September 29, 2001 (meetings that were cancelled in the wake of September 11th). The bullets used by the police and fences constructed around these meetings are a metaphor for the legislation demanded by the corporations of the governments they control. It is necessary to silence the protestors by any means necessary. The terrorist attacks gave the authoritarians the opening they needed. Now citizens of both Britain and the United States have fewer rights than they did in the summer of 2001.

Under the USA PATRIOT Act, the Secretary of State could designate any group that has ever engaged in protest activity designed to prevent an action from occurring a "terrorist organization"—whether it be Operation Rescue, Greenpeace, or People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Such a designation forbids the group's non-citizen members from entering the United States, and makes payment of membership dues a deportable offense. Under the bill, people can be deported regardless of whether they knew of the Secretary's designation and regardless of whether their assistance had anything to do with the group's alleged terrorist activity. Furthermore, US citizens are subject to prosecution under a part of this new law that could re-define many direct action tactics (lockdowns, street blockades) as domestic terrorism. Parts of this provision give law enforcement agents the ability to charge anyone who provides assistance to a person charged with domestic terrorism with harboring a terrorist. They also now have the authority to wiretap the home of anyone providing assistance. In addition, this provision gives the federal government the authority to prosecute violations of state law, which should be prosecuted in state courts, not in federal court.

This act also allows law enforcement agencies to enter a house, apartment or office with a search warrant when the occupant is away, search through her/his property and take photographs, and in some cases seize physical property and electronic communications, and not tell the victim of the search until later. It allows highly personal student information to be transmitted to many federal agencies that could lead to adverse consequences far beyond the stated goal of the anti-terrorism bill. What about military tribunals? According to Bush and Ashcroft, these are necessary to preserve national security. As for the right to a trial by jury and to cross-examine witnesses, forget it—immigrants who the state thinks are terrorists have no right to these niceties. In short, in order for the US to preserve its "freedoms", the government now finds it necessary to curtail those freedoms for certain people who may be accused of a crime. The current government seems to think that the right to a fair trial is a uniquely American right that does not apply in all cases to US citizens and certainly not to non-citizens. However, they are incorrect. The *UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights* clearly states:

* Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.
* No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest, detention or exile. Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.
* Everyone charged with a penal offence has the right to be presumed innocent until proved guilty according to law in a public trial at which he has had all the guarantees necessary for his defence.

The military tribunals supported by Bush and Ashcroft provide none of these guarantees—which is exactly why they are going to be used. Once again, the people who run this country have proven how little regard they have for the human rights the founders of this country (with all their faults) fought for. No longer does the judicial branch and an independent jury stand between the government and the accused. In lieu of those checks and balances central to our legal system, non-citizens face an executive that is now investigator, prosecutor, judge, jury and jailer or executioner. If these trials do take place without great protest, there is a very real fear some US citizens could also be facing the tribunals. What is the solution? I don't claim to have the answers, but here are some commonsense thoughts that might prevent future attacks by terrorists. First and foremost, the attack on Afghanistan must end and all troops, planes and warships in the region must return to the United States. Secondly, the United States must sign on to the various mechanisms being designed to prosecute war crimes like the US use of cluster bombs and the training of death squads and other international actions against humanity like that of September 11th. Although these mechanisms have their shortcomings, they are still better than war and its accompanying terror and murder. It must be the ultimate goal of all nations and peoples to design a truly fair and representative mechanism for solving disputes between nations and peoples and for trying crimes against the human race.

In the long run, the US needs to change its foreign policy. It must consider the needs of all people in the developing world, not just those reactionary forces it prefers to deal with and put into power (or support once they seize power). It must end its financial support of Israel's expansionist policies that ignore the reality of the Palestinian people. I honestly believe that if these two elements changed in Washington's foreign policy, the majority of the people in the middle east and central Asia—along with those folks in predominantly Islamic nations—would no longer consider extremist philosophies to be the answer to the injustices they face. However, these changes are not going to come about by themselves. Indeed, the American people need to inform themselves and make a fairer foreign policy a key to getting elected in this country.

Unfortunately, our foreign policy has been decided by oil companies and other corporations for too long. The US can no longer act as if the world is its real estate. It is essential that we put human needs before corporate desires. The drive for profit is not only bad for the earth's environment and its people, it puts the American people in real danger. Bombing and fighting wars against other countries (or groups within those countries) only makes the situation worse. It is up to the people of the world to demand that bombing and other offensive actions end now and forever.

Youth groups call for national peace march

The National Youth and Student Peace Coalition met here to plan a national anti-war mobilization April 14 in the nation's capital. Representing hundreds of thousands of students on hundreds of campuses and young people in communities in every state, the coalition of 16 national organizations held a press conference Dec. 10.

"We are here to speak for the millions of young people opposed to this war," said Jo Taylor, vice president of the United States Student Association (USSA). "Our membership has called on us to speak their concerns about U.S. policy since Sept. 11, a policy of war and undermining civil rights."

The coalition categorically condemned the Sept. 11 terror attacks and extended its support to the direct and indirect victims. The coalition also called for an end to any military response to those attacks, instead calling for a solution through international venues and by addressing the root causes of conflict.

Fasih Saddiqui, a student at George Washington University representing Muslim Student Association of the U.S. and Canada, condemned the restrictions being imposed on foreign students. "Without exposure to different cultures, how can we appreciate, measure and evaluate our own culture and democratic history?" he asked. Saddiqui also stated that many foreign Muslim and Arab students have received threats and have returned to their home countries out of fear for their safety.

The coalition called for the repeal of the USA Patriot Act, railroaded through Congress in the wake of Sept. 11, purportedly to increase security and safety. "Real homeland security is job security, a quality education, the right to free speech," said Dartmouth University student John Brett of the Campus Greens. According to Brett, USA Patriot curbs civil liberties without providing real security at all.

"The best way to support our brothers and sisters who were sent to Afghanistan is to bring them home," said Shelly Delos of the Young Communist League. She condemned the disproportionate representation of people of color in the front line troops of the U.S. military. "Raining terror on the people of Afghanistan will not repair the devastation we suffered as a result of the terrorist attacks of 9/11."

The coalition has five demands for the Bush administration and local authorities: 1) pass legislation against racial profiling and racist military recruitment; 2) target economic relief programs at those hardest hit and away from corporate bailouts; 3) increase need-based financial aid without strings to military service; 4) full disclosure of military research on campuses and 5) for universities to divest from the private prison industry, which benefits from immigrant detentions.

The coalition promises to organize local campaigns on these five demands, which will also be the basis of the April 14 national demonstration. Erica Smiley, of the Black Radical Congress Youth Caucus, fired up the crowd by reminding Congress and the president that young people will not only be out in the streets calling for an end to the war at home and abroad, but that young people vote. "We will remember come November whether you vote for smart bombs or for smarter kids!" Smiley said.

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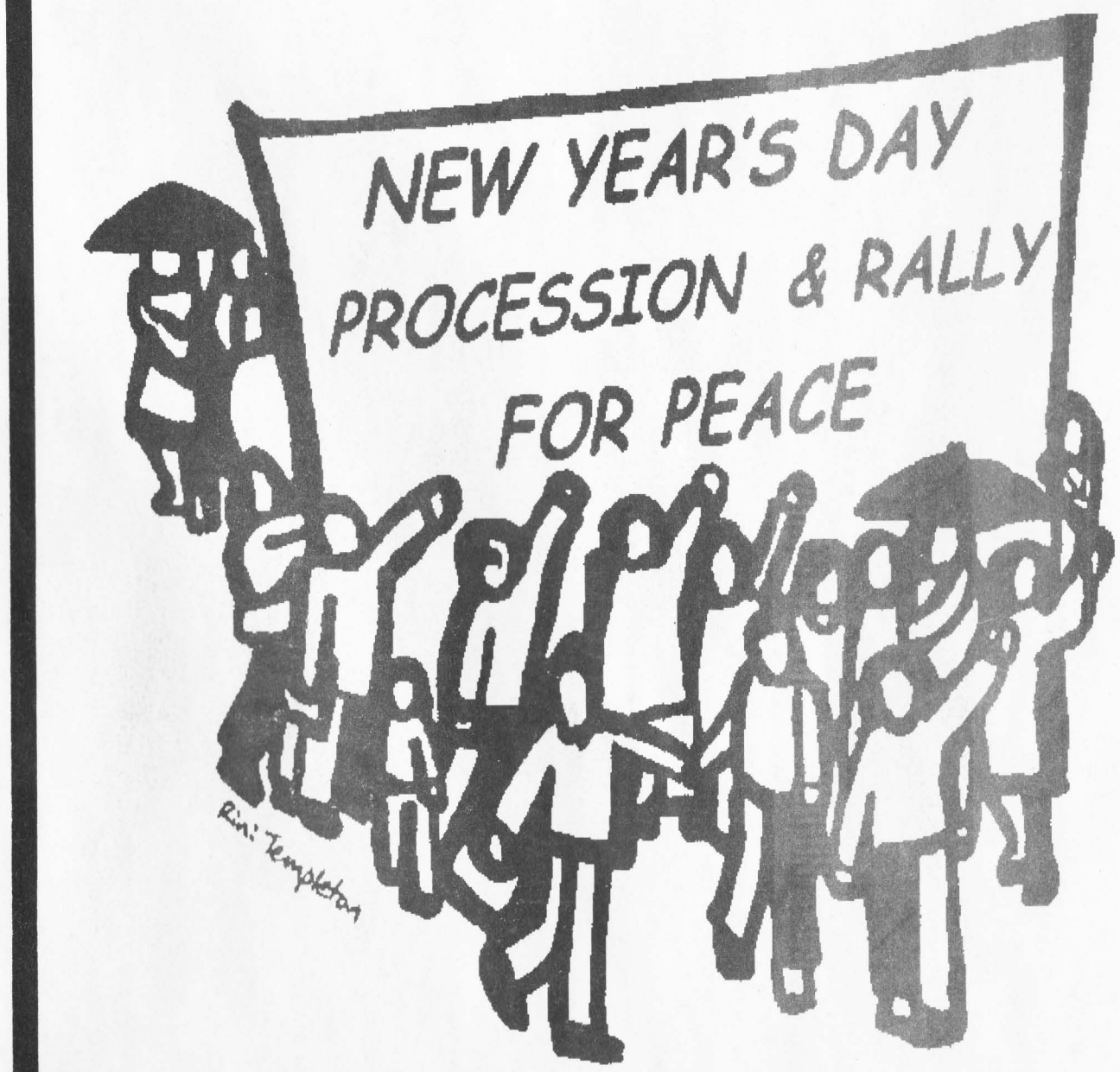

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